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The Highlander

Thursday May 1, 2025 | Issue 687

INSIDE: COUNTY TALKS ON-DEMAND BUS SERVICE PAGE 4

FREE

Jamie Schmale celebrates with his campaign team at the Cat and Fiddle in Lindsay after winning a fourth term as MP in the April 28 federal election. *Photo by Mike Baker*

Schmale wins fourth term in Ottawa

By Mike Baker

Conservative MP Jamie Schmale, elected for a fourth time in the rejigged Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes riding in Monday's federal election, said he noticed a major change while campaigning in the area over the past five weeks.

"An outpouring of support and interest in politics among youth. While door knocking, I noticed young Canadians are more dialed-in than I've seen in a long time. They do care about what happens, and what decisions made today mean for their future.

"They were voting for hope, voting for the fact they'd like to get a good job, buy a house, maybe start a family. If the polls and what we're hearing tonight are true, it will show young people came out in force and that many of them voted Conservative," Schmale said.

His win was confirmed about an hour after polls closed in Ontario. Schmale beat out Nell Thomas, the second-place Liberal candidate, having earned 42,676 votes. That was good enough for 56.6 per cent of the local split, Schmale's highest return yet after taking 52.3 per cent in 2021, 49.05 per cent in 2019, and 44.83 per cent in 2015. It was also the first time any local federal candidate had surpassed 40,000 votes.

Thomas had the Liberals' best showing in the riding in a quarter of a century, receiving 29,193 votes (38.7 per cent). The NDP's Alyea Teel came third with 2,624 votes (3.5 per cent), and Michael Penman of

Continued **'MP'** on page 7

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Highlander news

While Dysart's new fire master plan says the township should start thinking about a new station, chief Dan Chumbley says nothing is imminent. *File.*

New fire hall hinted for Dysart

By Mike Baker

Dysart et al council has been told it's time the township starts thinking about potential sites that could one day house a new fire hall.

Mike Vilneff of The Loomex Group presented Dysart's new fire master plan April 22. It includes 38 recommendations for improving operations at the Dysart Fire Department.

Vilneff said the document's primary purpose is to ensure compliance with the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act*, provide a clear picture of the community's current and anticipated fire protection needs, and recommend strategies to protect lives and property by enhancing public education, code enforcement, and fire suppression services – which he called "the three lines of defence" when it comes to firefighting.

Two of the top recommendations include conducting a study of the current fire hall, located behind A.J. LaRue Community Centre, to assess its current condition; and for the township to develop a new fire station replacement strategy, which would include information about site selection, land acquisition, funding strategies, construction, and disposal of the current facility.

Vilneff said the existing strategy, a decade old, is outdated due to price increases in recent years. He expressed concern, too, that the current station does not comply with the Accessibility for *Ontarians with Disabilities Act*.

Fire chief Dan Chumbley said the main part of the facility is approximately 50 years old. An extension was added in the late 80s.

He noted that while a new fire hall may be on the cards one day, nothing is imminent.

"It's not that we need to be out of here tomorrow or anything like that. The recommendation has come in because the consultant is seeing what it's costing other departments to replace their stations," Chumbley said. "It's high millions, maybe $7 million to $10 million. So, because the building is getting up there in age, they're saying it should be something we're focusing on."

The first step, Chumbley said, will be bringing someone in to assess the hall's current condition

"We need to know are we going to get 20 years out of it? Are we going to get five years out of it? Before we move onto figuring out how much, or where, we need to know the when."

Other key recommendations include: Dysart formalize an agreement outlining their participation in the County's mutual aid system, where local departments can access additional resources from neighbours when required; launch a program that outlines parameters to ensure firefighters aren't exposed to high levels of diesel exhaust; ensure a formalized water rescue program is developed; launch a driver competency program for operating trucks; and conduct a water supply study to assess the non-hydrant-protected areas of the community.

The report also says staff should investigate the feasibility of installing a dry water main that would bring water directly from Head Lake to the downtown core.

Chumbley said the document is a big help for him as he plans for the department's future.

"These guys are retired firefighters, chiefs, deputy chiefs, training officers… they know all the rules and regulations that, because I'm in a small rural community, I've just never run into. It's a good procedural plan that we can fall back on as and when needed," the chief said.

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Haliburton Highlands OPP make third major drug bust of 2025

By Mike Baker

Haliburton Highlands OPP and the OPP Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU) arrested three people, confiscated an estimated $12,000 worth of illegal drugs, and seized multiple weapons following a raid on a Minden Hills property April 22.

It's the third major drug bust in the County this year. Cst. Rob Adams said police carried out a search warrant at a property on County Road 121 last week, where they found firearms, ammunition and suspected drugs.

Officers seized 68.61 grams of fentanyl, 70 grams of crystal meth, 14.04 grams of cocaine, a 303 British Lee-Enfield long rifle, a .22 calibre Cooey long rifle, a 303 British Mark 3 long rifle, four pellet guns, four BB guns, 29 rounds of rifle ammunition, five operating scales, and three phones.

Adams said various power tools, including table saws, chainsaws, drills, batteries, industrial lights, a fan, a generator, a yeti cooler and electric bike were also confiscated.

Three people were arrested and charged. Shelby Montgomery, 33, faces three counts of possession of a schedule one substance for the purpose of trafficking; three counts of breach of firearms regulation, store firearm, or restricted weapon; 13 counts of possession of firearm or ammunition contrary to prohibition order; possession of property obtained by crime over $5,000; three counts of knowledge of unauthorized possession of a firearm; possession of a prohibited device or ammunition; and two counts of failing to comply with a probation order.

She was held for a bail hearing at the Ontario Court of Justice in Lindsay.

Also charged were Sean Martin and Andrew Hillis, both 43 and residents of Minden Hills.

Martin was hit with three counts of possession of a schedule one substance for the purpose of trafficking; three counts of breach of firearms regulation, store firearm, or restricted weapon; 13 counts of possession of firearm or ammunition contrary to prohibition order; possession of a prohibited device or ammunition; possession of property obtained by crime over $5,000; and three counts of knowledge of unauthorized possession of a firm.

OPP seized weapons and suspected drugs from a County Road 121 property in Minden Hills April 22. *Submitted.*

Martin was held for a bail hearing at the Ontario Court of Justice in Lindsay.

Hillis was charged with possession of a schedule one substance; unauthorized possession of a firearm; and failure to comply with an undertaking. He is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden at a later date. None of the charges have been proven in court.

Adams said anyone with information about illegal firearms or the trafficking of illicit substances in Haliburton can file a report with the OPP at 1-888-310-1122. They can do so anonymously at 1-800-222-8477. Tips leading to arrest could receive a cash reward up to $2,000.

Impaired driving charge

A 38-year-old Haliburton man has been charged with impaired driving following a traffic stop in Haliburton village April 24.

The Haliburton Highlands OPP says police were on general patrol in the downtown before making the stop at approximately 9:23 p.m. A media release states that, after speaking with the driver, the officers "were quickly led to an impaired driving investigation."

Police did not disclose the man's blood alcohol level. The limit is 80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood. The man was also charged with driving without proper rear light.

Police suspended his driving licence for 90-days, while the vehicle was impounded for seven days.

The accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden at a future date.

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Highlander news

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Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

County looking for partners for on-demand bus service

By Mike Baker

A public bus service could be back on the menu for Haliburton County, with councillors at the upper tier directing staff to investigate an on-demand service model.

The issue has been debated for several years, with the most recent update coming in May 2024, when the lone bidder on a fixed route system between Haliburton and Minden quoted annual costs of $685,000 – plus gas and $45,000 in start-up money – to operate. Council opted against the contract.

Scott Ovell, the County's director of economic development and tourism, brought a potential solution forward at an April 23 meeting. While previously, the County wanted to establish a route that ran eight to 12 hours per day, six days a week, Ovell feels the most realistic option is proceeding with an on-demand service.

"Over the course of the fall, staff have been monitoring other systems that have been implemented in rural Ontario… some of those did indicate they've seen some cost savings by not running on a fixed-route system and [buses] being empty," Ovell said.

"They also felt it provided a better service option to get to some of the more remote areas in their jurisdictions," he added.

Ovell said both the District of Muskoka and County of Wellington had recently revamped their transit systems, preferring a responsive model – one that runs when people need it, rather than all the time. He said a similar model has potential to meet the County's needs, both in demand and cost.

A new RFP will be posted in mid-to-late May, Ovell said. In it, the County is looking for potential operators to provide a scope of work for delivering a responsive transit service, which he says "differs significantly" from the fixed-route model.

Any plan will need to ensure compliance with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*, identify service delivery options, routes, and cost, provide a detailed outline of proposed fares and service schedule, details on the type of bus they plan to utilize, information on booking methods, and a proposed date for implementation.

Ovell said staff has outlined the service must run at minimum five hours a day, five days per week. While an initial route will connect Minden and Haliburton, with mandatory drop offs at places like the Haliburton hospital and Minden Urgent Care Clinic, Ovell said there's also an option for bidders to outline a model that would service the entire County – including Algonquin Highlands and Highlands East.

Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter has been a long-time advocate of public transit. *File.*

Some councillors concerned

Coun. Liz Danielsen said that piece is important as Algonquin Highlands "is not interested in paying for a service that's only going to serve Minden Hills and Dysart et al."

That irked councillors Murray Fearrey and Bob Carter – mayors of Dysart and Minden respectively – who said there are lots of things those two townships pay for that benefit residents of the two more rural municipalities. Danielsen later noted she was supportive of starting a service.

> *"It's got to start somewhere. It's never going to get to the outlying districts unless it starts at the centre."*
>
> ***Bob Carter, Minden Hills mayor***

Carter felt it was important the County first establish a service and potentially expand later.

"It's got to start somewhere. It's never going to get to the outlying districts unless it starts at the centre," Carter said. "We have to look at whether we're here as Haliburton County, or we're here as four individual municipalities."

Coun. Cec Ryall, Highlands East deputy mayor, wanted more assurance over the cost and timeline for expanding the service beyond Minden and Haliburton villages.

"If we're going to be looking at a 10-year [window before expansion] that's only going to benefitting the two municipalities, that to me is not fair. There needs to be some kind of adjustment in the fee structure," Ryall said.

County CAO Gary Dyke said there are many intangible benefits to establishing a service, noting it can help attract doctors and businesses to the area.

While there was no mention of anticipated costs, Ovell said, "I don't think I would be here if I thought I was coming back with a tender for $685,000 again." He said the County has $182,601 in a transit reserve and could tap into provincial money, via gas tax funding, once a service is operational. Funding is not available in year one, though Ovell said the County could get up to $194,543 in years two and three.

The director noted he has heard from interested parties, hoping that will mean more than one company puts a bid in. He told council he expects to deliver another report in July, where, armed with more information, there can be more debate over how and when the service will be rolled out.

"This is a starting point to build off. We'll make sure what comes back is a detailed response that will articulate not only where the starting point is, but where the finished product would land, and how long that would take," Ovell said.

"We can have more detailed discussions and work through what this could look like… what we've seen, particularly in rural Ontario, is that as technology has evolved, there are different models that could be operated more efficiently and more cost-effectively," he concluded.

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Minden Hills is telling people to be prepared in case the Gull River system floods, like in 2020 (above). *File.*

Minden at risk of flooding as Gull system 'basically full'

By Mike Baker

Minden Hills has now been in a state of emergency for 32 days and while Hydro One says all accessible properties have had power restored in the weeks since the March 29 ice storm, mayor Bob Carter says the community's issues are far from over.

In a public statement April 29, Carter said there are currently no plans to end the emergency given the community is facing significant flood risk.

"You may have seen on the news that Peterborough and others have lifted their state of emergency. Why is Minden still in [one]? Our response – water," Carter said.

He said a pile-up of circumstances, such as higher than usual winter snowfall and an abnormally wet April, was starting to take its toll on the Gull River system, which flows through Minden village.

While the Burnt River system has peaked and is now receding to normal levels, Carter said the Gull was "basically full" as of April 29.

"The lakes above Minden are at capacity or over capacity," the mayor said. "We started to work with Ministry of Natural Resources and Parks Canada well before the ice storm hit. Significant amounts of water were moved through the Gull River system to try to create capacity in the lakes above Minden in case of unusual weather patterns. However, the constant rains and snow melt have filled the lakes faster than we can move it downstream.

"Another complication is that the ice storm has left us with a fragile environment. There are many branches and trees that are easily disturbed. The streams and culverts are being blocked by debris from these trees, causing washouts and local flooding," he added.

By staying in a state of emergency, Carter said the township can access more provincial money to assist with response and clean-up. Residents who suffered uninsured damages and financial loss can apply for support through the Ontario government while Minden Hills maintains the emergency measures.

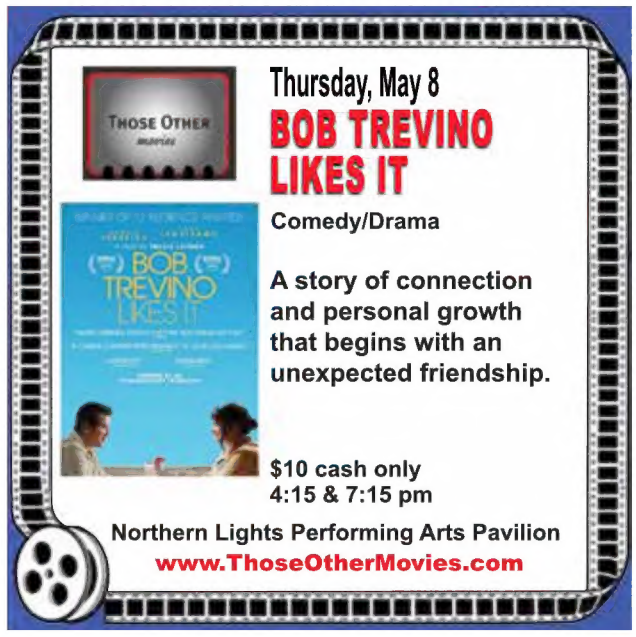
With Environment Canada issuing a tornado warning for swathes of southern Ontario earlier this week, including Haliburton County, and more rain expected over the next few days, Carter said the township "needs to be especially vigilant to react to any consequences."

Staff is still meeting with MNR and Parks Canada three times a week and will continue to do so through May until the flood threat subsides.

Carter indicated it will likely be some time before things are completely back to normal. Staff has started to clear road allowances and ditches of felled limbs and debris, while the mayor said Minden Hills will soon announce a new program, in partnership with the County, to assist residents removing debris from private property.

"Not everybody was affected equally by this storm. I ask for your patience and a continued spirit of generosity to assist your neighbours. Many hands make light work, and we will need many hands to clean up this mess and get Minden back to normal," he said.

Should banks break, the township is offering sandbags and sand at the Minden Curling Club parking lot and Irondale Community Centre. Carter is reminding people to have 72-hour emergency kits at home just in case. Some suggested items include non-perishable food, water, battery-powered radio and flashlight, first aid kit, toiletries, cash, and warm clothing/footwear.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Kawartha Haliburton Children's Aid Society is recruiting foster families. *Photo by Mike Baker*

Children's Aid pushing for more foster parents

By Lisa Gervais

Kawartha Haliburton Children's Aid Society (KHCAS) is doing a library roadshow, in hopes of recruiting more foster parents, visiting five branches between May 2 and June 12.

They will be in Stanhope May 2, Minden May 21, Gooderham May 27, Dysart May 30 and Cardiff June 12 – setting up for two hours. They visited Wilberforce April 30.

"We'll talk to people and answer questions," the KHCAS' Barb Reay said. She noted people can go to the KHCAS Facebook pages for exact times. They also hope to get into farmers markets, and put flyers on community bulletin boards.

Reay said she'd been taking part in an Ontario-wide recruitment discussion group and is replicating what other CASs are doing They're hoping to take advantage of places the public is going to. "It's just really getting our face out there."

She acknowledged there had been a lot of press about the KHCAS over the past year.

On Oct. 23, 2024, the provincial government appointed a temporary supervisor for the KHCAS, saying, "we no longer have confidence in the society's ability to address its operational issues and growing deficit." On the same day, the board of KHCAS announced they had tendered their resignations. Rosaleen Cutler has been appointed supervisor to oversee and operate the society.

Last summer, KHCAS announced plans to shutter its branch at 73 Victoria St. in Haliburton this year, and drop one full-time staff member, while committing to still offering its services across the County. They were talking to partners about accessing space elsewhere. The changes were to have taken effect for April 1, 2025 but there have been no updates.

The KHCAS attributed the deficit to years of funding reductions, increased costs, increased complexity of need, and the lack of services required by legislation within the funding allocation.

Reay said they are doing what they can to try to bring up their foster parent numbers. "Because we've had a steady decline in foster homes over the last few years."

As of January of this year, the KHCAS had 35 open foster homes. In 2020, they had close to 100. "And the reasons I am being told are the pandemic, new legislation requirements, and the competitiveness of the OPRs (outside paid resource) in our area, as well as having an aging foster parent population. We had some really long-term amazing foster parents who have retired," Reay said.

The organization is looking for all kinds of fosters. She said the compensation varies from $46 to $84 per child per day. She said parents are fully trained. They're hoping to get 10 new families across the region. She said the goal is to keep kids within their communities so they don't have to leave their supports. She said she has had inquiries from the Highlands.

Asked for what qualities candidates should have, Reay said, "patience and compassion." It's helpful if people have experience with children, but not necessary. She said people have to work as a team, "and be very understanding that the children's families are always their families and our first, main objective is always to get kids back within their family home.

MTO work in Minden Hills and Carnarvon

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has two different projects underway on Hwy. 35 in the vicinity of Minden Hills and Carnarvon.

A ministry spokesperson said, "we are completing rehabilitation work on several local bridges and paving of a short section of Hwy. 35."

In advance of future highway work, the MTO has also started tree clearing from the north junction of Haliburton County Road 121 to 1.8 kilometres south of the intersection of Hwy. 35/118.

The spokesperson said the Mountain Lake, Beech River, Kennisis River and Oxtongue Lake Narrows bridges are included in the rehabilitation work.

Travellers can visit 511.on.ca or @511Ontario for updates on work and traffic impacts. *(Lisa Gervais)*

MP says minority 'allows other voices to be heard'

Continued from page 1

the People's Party of Canada getting 954 votes (1.3 per cent).

During his victory speech at The Cat and Fiddle in Lindsay, Schmale indicated it had been a tough campaign for him emotionally. He told how, daily, he encountered people struggling, forced to go without basic necessities due to the cost of living.

"People are hurting. Seniors have seen their savings accounts dwindle. The paycheques of the working person are becoming less and less. We're seeing record numbers at the food bank, with almost two million Canadians forced to ask for help to feed themselves and their families. The cost of housing has doubled, crime is up. There's a feeling of helplessness, but also a real hunger for change," Schmale said.

It wasn't enough for the Conservatives, led by Pierre Poilievre, to win. Mark Carney's Liberals will form a minority government, taking 169 seats – three short of the threshold required for a majority.

The Tories, meanwhile, grew their total seats from the 2021 vote, up to 144 from 119. The Bloc Quebecois took 23 seats, down from 32, while the NDPs are major losers, landing seven seats, an 18-seat drop from four years ago. The Greens won one seat through co-leader Elizabeth May.

Poilievre, in the Carleton riding, and NDP leader Jagmeet Singh, in Burnaby South, both lost their seats. Singh said he will resign after the NDP lost its party status, while Poilievre stated his intent to stay on as Conservative leader.

Voter turnout nationally has been pegged at 68.65 per cent, with 19.5 million of 28.5 million eligible voters casting a ballot. In Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes, that number increases to 72.36 per cent, with 75,447 of 104,259 registered electors voting.

Jamie Schmale will return to Ottawa after securing 42,676 votes in the April 28 election. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

Schmale predicts early vote

Schmale said the public should brace themselves for another early election – likely in a couple of years, rather than the usual four.

With a minority, the Liberals will require support from other parties to pass new legislation. Singh called off an NDP-Liberal coalition last September.

While disappointed in the result, Schmale said the fact it's a Liberal minority and not majority is a silver lining.

"That will allow the Opposition a bit more say into how the government conducts itself… the government can't just run its own agenda. This allows other voices to be heard too," Schmale said.

Seeing his party finish as the bridesmaid for a fourth election in a row, Schmale acknowledged his job is a little harder as a member of the Opposition but said that isn't going to stop him from advocating for Haliburton County and Kawartha Lakes.

He blamed U.S. president Donald Trump's "tariff distractions" for the loss and projects more pain for Canadians under the leadership of prime minister-elect Mark Carney.

"For a lot of people, the last five years have been the hardest. That's because of the decisions made by the Liberal government, which has been getting economic advice from Carney the whole time," Schmale said.

While there's no date for Parliament's return, Schmale said he hopes to get back to Ottawa soon. The federal government has yet to sit in 2025.

"With everything we're going through as a country, all the problems we're facing, the sooner we can get back to doing what we should be doing, the better," Schmale said, noting his first priority once back will be following up on leads for more affordable housing in the riding.

Thomas 'thankful'

While not a win for her locally, Thomas had the strongest showing of any Liberal candidate in the riding since John O'Reilly formed government in the late 90s and early 00s, almost doubling the numbers done by Judi Forbes in 2021, who earned 15,645 votes (23.1 per cent).

During her concession speech at Lindsay's Olympia Restaurant, Thomas thanked all the volunteers who rallied around her over the past five weeks, feeling she ran a clean campaign.

"We have been on the most amazing journey… this experience has been invigorating and heartwarming and is a testament to the power of positive energy when people know they're doing the right thing.

"This decision for me to run was never about me. It has always been about this country. It is about providing a voice for the people of our riding and an option for this country," Thomas said.

The Minden-based doctor was pleased to see the Liberals secure a fourth term in Ottawa, believing Carney will deliver "a positive, secure, and strong future for Canada."

Thomas says inflammatory tweets 'taken out of context'

By Mike Baker

Addressing her supporters following defeat in Monday's federal election, Liberal candidate Nell Thomas said she, her team, and supporters "have been victimized" throughout the five-week campaign.

In a speech delivered at Lindsay's Olympia Restaurant, Thomas said she ran a "squeaky clean" operation, which culminated April 28 with 29,193 votes (38.7 per cent). She was the runner-up behind four-term Conservative MP Jamie Schmale, though the performance was the Liberals' strongest in the riding in 25 years.

"We do not denigrate, we do not name call, we do not believe in fraudulent, or destructive, or illegal activity. But we have been victims of all the above," Thomas said.

She claims her elections signs were heavily tampered with throughout the campaign, while team members, including herself, received death threats, were verbally abused, and physically intimidated by detractors.

This was happening even before a series of comments made by Thomas on a now-deleted X – formerly Twitter – account was made public last week, she claims.

In those messages, posted in 2023 and 2024, Thomas appeared to question why anyone would want to have children today, stating, "of necessity, a mother must be a climate change denier."

While discussing an unknown issue, she appeared to target Canada's older demographic, commenting that solutions "must include stop keeping ancients alive so long."

In a video posted to her official election channels, Thomas said those comments were taken out of context, though apologized for the hurt her words may have caused.

"I want to make clear that my values remain rooted in respect, understanding, and justice. For those who know me, they know I am a person of strong morality. I am a physician who cares for patients of all ages across every stage of life, including end-of-life journeys. I help people find dignity, relieve suffering, and seeking peace when existence becomes too heavy to bear.

"I am also a lifelong environmentalist who cares deeply about the future we are leaving for our children. There is nothing more meaningful to me than caring for moms and their babies. I love the life force that drives us to create new generations," she said.

Liberal candidate Nell Thomas said she has been the target of a smear campaign for weeks ahead of the April 28 federal election. *File.*

Thomas said those comments were plucked from conversation threads involving multiple people, with no context provided. She felt it was a coordinated smear campaign.

"The issue is foreign interference, the extreme right-wing propaganda machine of disinformation," Thomas said. "These are the threats to democracy that we must all work against right now."

Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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To bus, or not to bus?

By Mike Baker

It's been a long and winding road these past few years as the past two County councils have grappled with the idea of launching a public bus service in the Highlands, and things took yet another turn last week.

Scott Ovell, the County's director of economic development and tourism, said he's preparing to put out an RFP later this month looking for companies interested in operating a service on behalf of the upper tier government.

It's the third attempt in the past six years to get something going.

Back in 2018, a consultant, the IBI Group, did a public transportation implementation plan for the County. They came up with an outline for a countywide bus system at an estimated cost of $294,000 a year, recommending council approve a service in January 2019. Council opted not to proceed.

Then, in February 2023, Ovell and former planning director Steve Stone approached the current council wanting to reopen the file. With cost of living increasing following the COVID-19 pandemic, they felt there was an even greater demand for public transit. Tina Jackson, executive director of Central Food Network in Highlands East, agreed.

Council, ultimately, did not, with members feeling it would be too expensive to operate. Dysart mayor Murray Fearrey at the time said, "I think it's something everybody desired, but it's not practical in Haliburton County the way we're located." So, again, the discussion was parked.

In September 2023, Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter lobbied for a bare bones fixed-route service between Haliburton and Minden villages. County council agreed it was time to investigate options once again but were shocked when, last May, the lone bid came in offering a service for $685,000 per year, alongside $45,000 in start-up costs.

Oh, and the County would have had to foot the bill for gas – another incredible expense. Unsurprisingly, they decided not to proceed.

Talks continued without anything substantive being tabled – until last week. At an April 23 County meeting, Ovell pitched a potential solution. Rather than sticking with a dedicated route eight to 12 hours per day, six days a week, he's pitching an on-demand model. Basically, people can register for a ride when they need one and a bus will hit the road.

Where it will start, stop, and how often it will be available isn't yet clear – Ovell said the RFP outlines the service must run at minimum five hours a day, five days per week.

That would be a good starting point and will quickly show the County just how in-demand this service is. Ovell said he connected with people in his position in the District of Muskoka and County of Wellington, which each operates an on-demand bus service. He said he'd heard good things.

There was a bit of a debate among council – representatives from Algonquin Highlands and Highlands East felt it would be unfair for those two townships to pay into a program that solely benefits Dysart et al and Highlands East.

But Carter said it best – they have to start somewhere. Getting a service up and running is the important thing, connecting people between the County's two main urban centres. If successful, it could be extended to service the entire County. If it's not, well, then it can and will go the way of the dodo bird.

We feel, though, that the benefits extend far beyond getting people from point A to point B. County CAO Gary Dyke said one of the first things prospective doctors and business owners ask about when considering relocating to the Highlands is public transit.

As the saying goes: if you build it, they will come.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

Emergency shelter services for County residents

By Michelle Corley and Angela Ricciuti

Homelessness has become more prevalent and visible across Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County in recent years.

A Place Called Home is funded to provide emergency shelter to residents of Haliburton County and the City of Kawartha Lakes, including youth, adults, and families. Located in Lindsay, the shelter operates 30 beds, which represents a recent increase from 19 beds.

When an individual requires emergency shelter, they can call A Place Called Home. Staff will assess the situation, ensuring no other safe or viable options exist. If none are identified, individuals will be offered a space in the shelter, based on availability. In very specific instances, depending on current shelter space and/or the individuals' circumstances, staff can authorize a brief hotel stay in the County. Transportation via taxi will be arranged as needed.

Although our primary goal is to provide long-term housing solutions, some community members may temporarily need emergency shelter. Individuals facing homelessness in our area encounter numerous challenges in securing safe and stable housing. As part of our ongoing efforts, we are involved in community planning initiatives to identify housing options and supportive services for the most vulnerable members of our population.

Additionally, when temperatures drop below -10 degrees Celsius, we will temporarily increase shelter capacity through the Out of the Cold program to ensure that those experiencing homelessness have access to warmth and safety. Our priority is to bring people indoors during extreme weather, protecting them from the dangers of the cold.

Before winter set in, all individuals known to be experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the County of Haliburton received supports to secure housing or find safer shelter options for the months ahead. This reduction is a direct result of our housing-focused support and the resourcefulness of our community members. The City of Kawartha Lakes has a dedicated homeless outreach worker in Haliburton County who engages with those experiencing homelessness and connects them to various community supports.

If you are at risk of becoming homeless, please contact A Place Called Home at 705-328-0905, or toll-free at 1-866-520-2689.

If you see someone staying outside, please report this by completing the City's Encampment Reporting Form at forms.kawarthalakes.ca/Housing-Help/Encampment-Reporting or email the Homelessness Street Outreach Team at streetoutreach@kawarthalakes.ca. Please note that these forums are not for crisis intervention. If you encounter someone in distress or facing a medical emergency, please call 9-1-1 immediately.

To learn more about Community Safety and Well-Being in Haliburton County, visit haliburtoncounty.ca/CSWB.

Michelle Corley is the human services manager, housing, City of Kawartha Lakes and Angela Ricciuti is executive director of A Place Called Home.

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

How low is the bar?

Dear Editor,

Thankfully, the majority of voters in Haliburton made the correct choice in re-electing Jamie Schmale to Parliament instead of a far-left liberal activist.

How else do you describe someone who wrote (as reported by multiple media on April 26, 2025) that Canada must "stop keeping ancients alive so long" (meaning the elderly), and "Imagine my thoughts when assessing a pregnant patient. I telepathically advise the fetus to sue the owner of the uterus while exiting it to this world. Of necessity, a mother must be a climate change denier."

It would be bad enough if the average person posted such opinions on "X", but coming from a medical doctor, part-time opinion columnist/contributor to the Highlander and MP candidate makes this inexcusable.

I hope the Editor, Publisher and advertisers of the Highlander share this view.

Dave Love
Haliburton Lake

Is the election over?

Dear Editor,

I am very dissatisfied with the April 28 federal election. We've been pushed into a two-party, big tent system. And we can see how that has resulted in Donald Trump and disaster in the U.S. There is a growing anger and suspicion also here in Canada of the other big tent and little incentive to find common ground. Just listen to how Danielle Smith in Alberta and Yves-Francois Blanchett in Quebec talk.

And then there's our place, HKLB, stuck in a Conservative Party stranglehold.

No one can be the leader of all Canada. That's just hopeful rhetoric. We can only fairly represent the multiple priorities, interests and points of view in the country. Common sense then demands these groups find enough common ground to work together, compromise to create a majority to enact legislation.

That's proportional representation. Time to get it done.

Jim Milne
Haliburton

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Debra Whyte captured these sunbathing turtles lounging on a downed branch in the bush.

HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

Sherry Klapow enjoys 'different' life in Wilberforce

By Susan Tromanhauser

Armed with a Bachelor of Interior Design from Ryerson University (now TMU), Sherry Gotter was hired at a design firm at Yonge/Eglington, downtown Toronto - on her way to becoming the urban designer she always dreamed - until a fateful meetup on a dock at Lake Esson.

A girls' weekend at her parents' cottage gave rise to young men noticing young women and the dock side group transitioned to a local party. There Gotter's life plans changed forever - she met Jeff Klapow. After a two-year period of long distance dating, they married and she became Sherry Klapow, but far from the urban lifestyle of design she originally envisioned.

As her university degree designates, Klapow is a planner. She knew an urban way of life was never going to work for her husband, deep down a "country boy," so a move to Wilberforce was necessary. But she also wanted to ensure her career path would not be derailed.

Prior to leaving Toronto she found local employment in her design field. While initially a step back, within a short time she built relationships with contractors and others in her field to prepare for her next career step – her own business.

As for many, Covid was the impetus to make a decision to strike out on her own. The forced time home made her realize the childhood milestones and events she was missing. Working weekends and evenings of retail no longer fit the life she wanted. She needed flexibility working for herself would provide, so SAK Designs was born.

SAK Designs has grown to a be a successful business. A recent job on Boshkung Lake was showcased in *Our Home* magazine with SAK given design credit. Word of mouth gets most jobs, with the word being that Klapow uses her learned skills but also implements the homeowners' tastes and wants. To Klapow it is all about improving the space whether it is an urban or country vibe.

SAK Design allows Klapow the work lifestyle she now knows she always wanted. Klapow is happy to be raising her boys, 8 and 10, in a "dream childhood." Klapow hopes her children understand how fortunate they are to have "dirt bikes, four- wheelers, snowmobiles and swimming right off the dock – right at home, no need to travel hours to get there." Thinking of her children inspired Klapow to join the Wilberforce Agricultural Society, wanting to "represent the younger generation, giving input into the group on what her boys might enjoy" at the annual fair. Klapow became so involved she is currently the co-chair of the organization.

Married now 16 years, Klapow has no regrets about the move to Wilberforce. Klapow and her husband have built a life together enabling her to balance her career goals of a successful design business and enjoying the most important thing - her family.

Sherry Klapow

SEND IN YOUR PHOTO OF THE WEEK
SEND US YOUR OPINION!

Send them to editor@thehighlander.ca

Highlander environment

Artificial light studied on Paudash Lake

By Kimberly Strong-Knight

'Our Power, Our Planet' was the theme for World Earth Day this year, with Environment Haliburton! (EH!) drafting in a pair of Trent University student researchers to discuss the impacts of artificial light on the environment around Paudash Lake.

Ella Honey and Angus McBride are pursuing master's degrees in freshwater ecology and spent some time in the Cardiff area last fall. The pair told an April 22 webinar their focus was on how light pollution affects the natural environment, wildlife, and human life on the lake.

They were approached by the Paudash Lake Conservation Association (PCLA) last year, with the group challenging them to investigate ways to reduce the effects of artificial light at night, or ALAN, Honey said.

"They identified light pollution as a concern with both ecological and atmospheric," Honey explained, noting wildlife can be negatively impacted and displaced.

The students studied three locations on the lake in August and September and distributed a survey through PCLA membership. The case study involved assessing insect attraction to four types of white light, ranging from warm to cool. They found fewer insects were attracted to warm wavelength light, with numbers increasing through neutral to cool light.

"Using warm lights may reduce insect attraction," McBride said, noting artificial light may affect the nocturnal behaviour of insects, impacting their interactions with cottages and their broader roles within the ecosystem.

McBride noted insects are a foundational part of the circle of life, particularly for aquatic creatures.

"Increased attraction to cottage properties reduces the number available to be eaten," he said. "This impacts fish, birds, amphibians, leading to possible reductions in their populations."

While the pair didn't have hard numbers to show how many properties utilized bright lights on their property after dark, Honey said they observed, "many cottages with unnecessary outdoor lighting, contributing to scattered light."

She said of the 72 people who responded to their survey, about two-thirds agreed or strongly agreed that artificial lights negatively impact the environment.

Humans impacted too

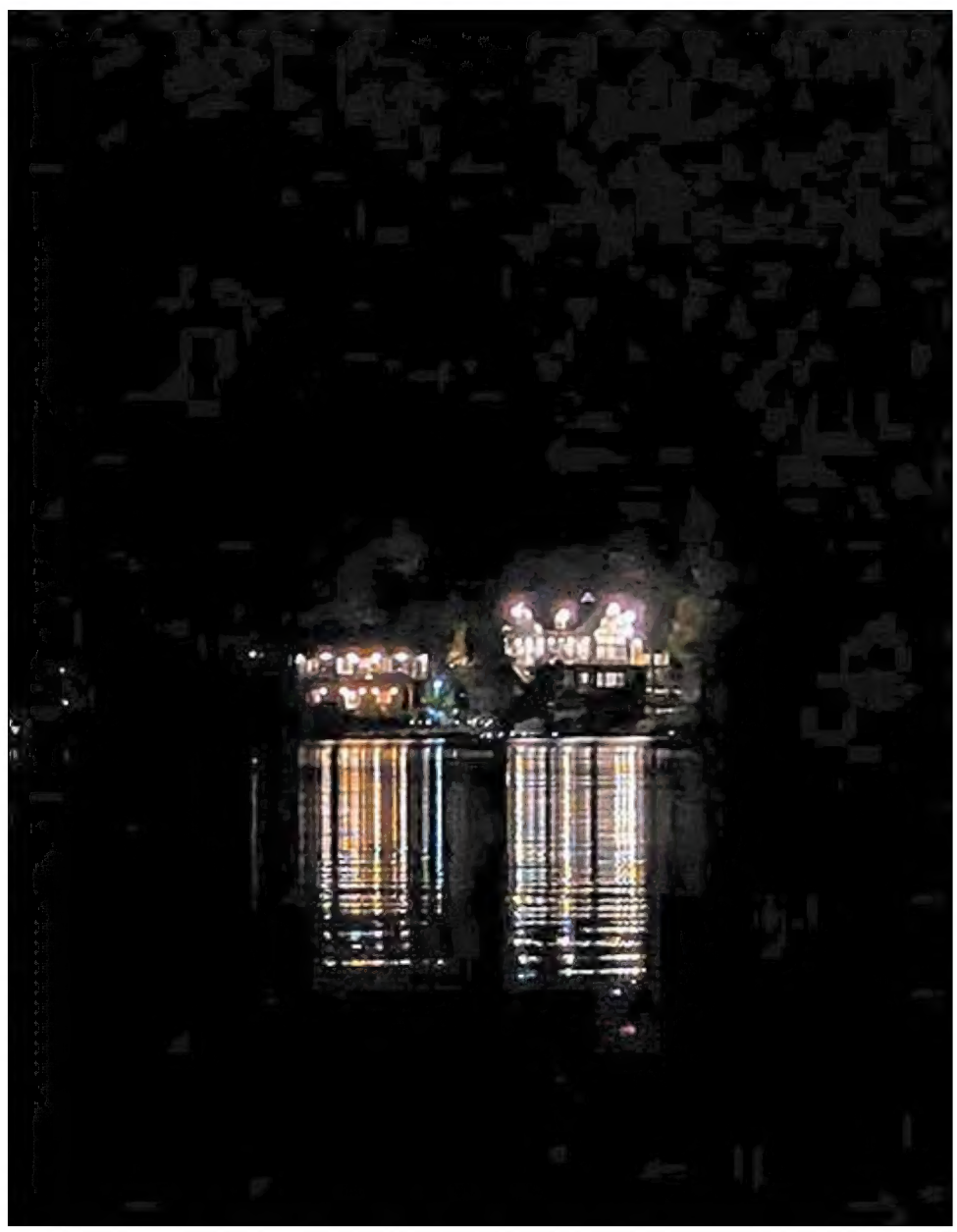
Honey said low-intensity, low blue-light emission LED and CFL lights are the least attractive type of lights and can negatively impact humans too.

"Blue light can disrupt our circadian rhythm," Honey said, noting how our internal clock, responsible for releasing hormones and mood regulation, can be thrown off.

Research shows blue light can impact the body's natural sleep-wake cycle, by disrupting melatonin production and delaying sleep onset. While blue light is beneficial during the day for alertness, its exposure at night, especially before bed, can hinder sleep quality.

Honey and McBride said there are some ways to limit impacts – they recommend turning lights off whenever possible and utilizing motion sensors or timers. They also suggested shielding lights to reduce skyglow.

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada has strict controls when it comes to artificial lights, especially in environmentally significant areas. Honey said the organization has many dark sky preserves in Canada – including Torrance Barrens Conservation Reserve near Huntsville, which was the world's first permanently designated dark sky preserve.



Trent students Ella Honey and Angus McBride analyzed the impacts of artificial lights on Paudash Lake. *Submitted.*

"Towns around the preserve have established bylaws to minimize light pollution and preserve nighttime darkness for future generations," said McBridge. "It would be sad if future generations grew up not being able to see the stars and the sky."

Highlands East has a bylaw designed to reduce the negative impact of artificial light on wildlife and preserve the natural beauty of the night sky, while Algonquin Highlands and Dysart et al have policies regulating outdoor lighting and promoting responsible lighting practices.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 911 • AFTER-HOURS MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY DIAL 1-866-856-3247 • WWW.MINDENHILLS.CA

NOTICE OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

Take Notice there will be a Special Meeting of Council held Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 9:00 AM in the Minden Hills Council Chambers, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, ON.

The purpose of the Special meeting is to provide an additional Council meeting that is dedicated to a series of applications for the Planning Department. The Special meeting will consist of:

- 7 Public Meetings for Zoning By-law Amendments
- 1 Delegation from Eastern Ontario Regional Network – Communication Towers
- 9 Shoreline Road Allowance Application Reports
- 1 Mapping Updates Report

Please visit our website for further information.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

You are invited to First Responders Day 2025! On Thursday, May 1st from 3:00-7:00PM come visit the Minden Hills Fire Department at 12418 Hwy 35.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- May 8 – Regular Council Meeting
- May 13 – Special Council Meeting
- May 29 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

RECREATION & PROGRAMMING

- Minden Hills summer camp registration is now open! Sign up online at www.mindenhills.ca/recreation or in person at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena.
- There is still limited space in some of our current kids' programs running now until June. Please reach out to Megan at mlocker@mindenhills.ca if interested.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- *We're Still Talking*, an exhibit of fibre works by local artists Sandi Luck, Nadine Papp and Wendy Wood will be on display until May 10 in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery.
- *We Were Taught Differently (Bakaan nake'ii ngii-izhigakinoo'amaagoomin)* an exhibit created by The MUSE will be on display until June 28 in the Welch Room. Learn about the residential school experience and the long-term effects on First Nations people through powerful images, text, video, archival material, and personal recollections.
- *Finding Dawn (2006)* – Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Thursday, May 1 at 1:00 PM. This documentary traces the stories of missing and murdered Indigenous women from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside to the Highway of Tears. It exposes systemic violence while honouring Indigenous strength and resilience. The film is presented in partnership with the HCPL – Minden Branch and the National Film Board.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON, K0M 2K0 | Phone: 705-286-1260 · Toll Free 1-844-277-1260 · Fax: 705-286-4917

@Township.Minden.Hills Minden Hills@twpmindenhills

A bloody good time

Contemporary theatre group Ctrl-ART-Del put on quite the show last weekend, with three performances of *Dracula – a Comedy of Terrors* at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. The play, by Gordon Greenberg and Steve Rosen and directed locally by Alex Kocot, was met with great appreciation and turnout April 24-26, with the cast pulling off a unique spin on the classic horror.

Top Left: Taliah Dumas-Stephenson, playing Mina Westfeld and Spencer Zumpano, playing Renfield kicked off Friday's show. Top Right: Jordan Kovacs, as Johnathan Harker, gives an ominous look to the stormy sky. Middle Left: Zumpano (Renfield) in conversation with Lindsay Jowett, who portrayed Dr. Van Helsing. Middle Right: Dracula, played by Christine Carr, puts Johnathan Harker (Kovacs) in his place. Bottom Left: Sisters Lucy and Mina Westfelt, played by Hannah Klose and Dumas-Stephenson, read together. Bottom Right: Dracula (Carr) eyes up the sweet spot for a bite of Mina Westfeld's (Dumas-Stephenson) neck. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

Save the Date!

Mother's Day Brunch

Sunday, May 11th | 11am-3pm

$60 + 1 complimentary mimosa

Reserve through
Open Table, Lands8fifty

Brunch

Price does not include taxes and service fees

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH MENU

MAY 11TH- 11 A.M. – 3 P.M.

COMPLIMENTARY MIMOSA - $60 per person

Choice of STARTER

PURE HOME GROWN BEET SALAD
PHG field greens, beets, pomegranate, feta, truffle citrus vinaigrette, orange, flax seed

PURE HOME GROWN CAESAR SALAD
PHG greens, House Caesar dressing with bacon chips, croutons, Parmigiano, pomegranate

ROASTED PUMPKIN SOUP
Slow roasted pumpkin, candied pepitas, Windmill microgreens

Choice of MAIN

PAN SEARED STEELHEAD TROUT
Beet hummus, green lentils succotash, fresh tomato salsa

QUICHE LORRAINE
Double smoked bacon, Gruyere cheese, and broccoli. Petite PHG salad & fruit

LOBSTER BENEDICT
Potato latkes, sumac-orange hollandaise, petite PHG salad

AROMATIC INDIAN CHANNA
Curry vegetarian flavorful curry on a bed of basmati rice, served with warm naan

SWEET ENDING

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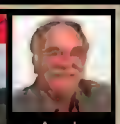

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Little Kennisis Lake $849,000
- 3 Beds/1 Bath, 0.4ac, 742Sqft
- Sunny Southern Exp, Spacious Deck
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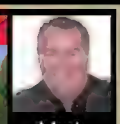

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- Year Round Road, Partially Cleared Lot
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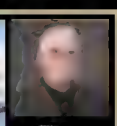

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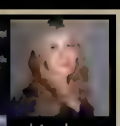

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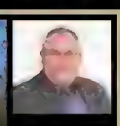
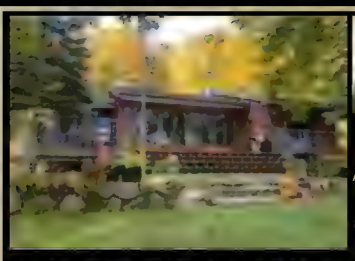


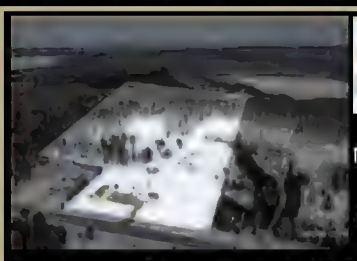
Andrew Hodgson** (705) 854-0130

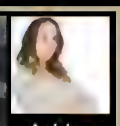
Maple Lake $949,000
- Breathtaking 3,200 SF home or cottage
- Open concept w/ 3 bdrms & 3.5 baths
- Short walk to deeded access w/ sand beach



Susanne James* & Andy Mosher** (705) 457-2128 ext. 133

4-Season Ctg on Lt Glamor Lake
- 4 Bdrms, 2 Full Baths, Dtch'd Dbl Garage
- Nice Clean Shoreline, Great Privacy
- $1,199,000, Must Be Seen!





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Brandon Nimigon*** (289) 259-1952

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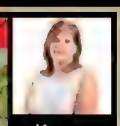

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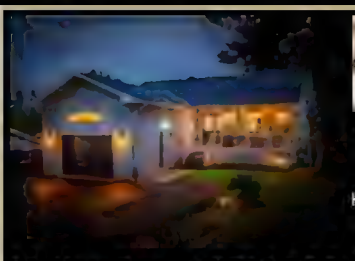
- Cozy Cabin, Camping Trailer, Lrg Yard
- Abundant Wildlife, 251ft of Frontage



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Kirsten Rae* (705) 854-1454

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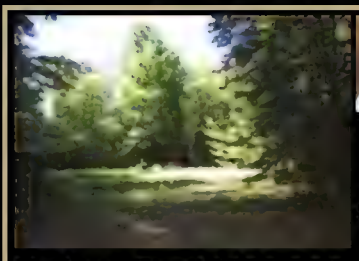
Darlene Reil* (705) 854-2055

Lumberjack's Diner $649,000
- Thriving Business in Gooderham
- 2 Bdrm Apartment plus rooms to rent out
- Live, Work and Play in Cottage Country!



Christine Sharp* (416) 566-1592

Harburn Road $159,000
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Highlander arts

The votes are in

Painter David Kerr was pleased as punch to take home first place in Rails End Gallery's 2025 People's Choice Awards, dished out April 24 following the conclusion of Legacy, the gallery's winter salon exhibition. Kerr's 'The Blue Canoe', an oil piece on birch panel, paid homage to Tom Thomson, one of Canada's most influential artists. "He has inspired me to adventure into the wilderness with a canoe 100 years after he painted many of his works," Kerr said. David Douglas was awarded second place for his watercolour 'My Pine Tree's Legacy', while textile artist Kathy Andrews took third for 'Giving Back', a piece she made using wool and beads. Gallery curator Laurie Jones said there was 65 entries in this year's exhibition. *(Mike Baker).*

Right: David Kerr shows off his winning piece 'The Blue Canoe', a 24x30 oil painting on birch panel. Above: David Douglas poses beside his watercolour painting 'My Pine Tree's Legacy' at Rails End Gallery. *Submitted.*

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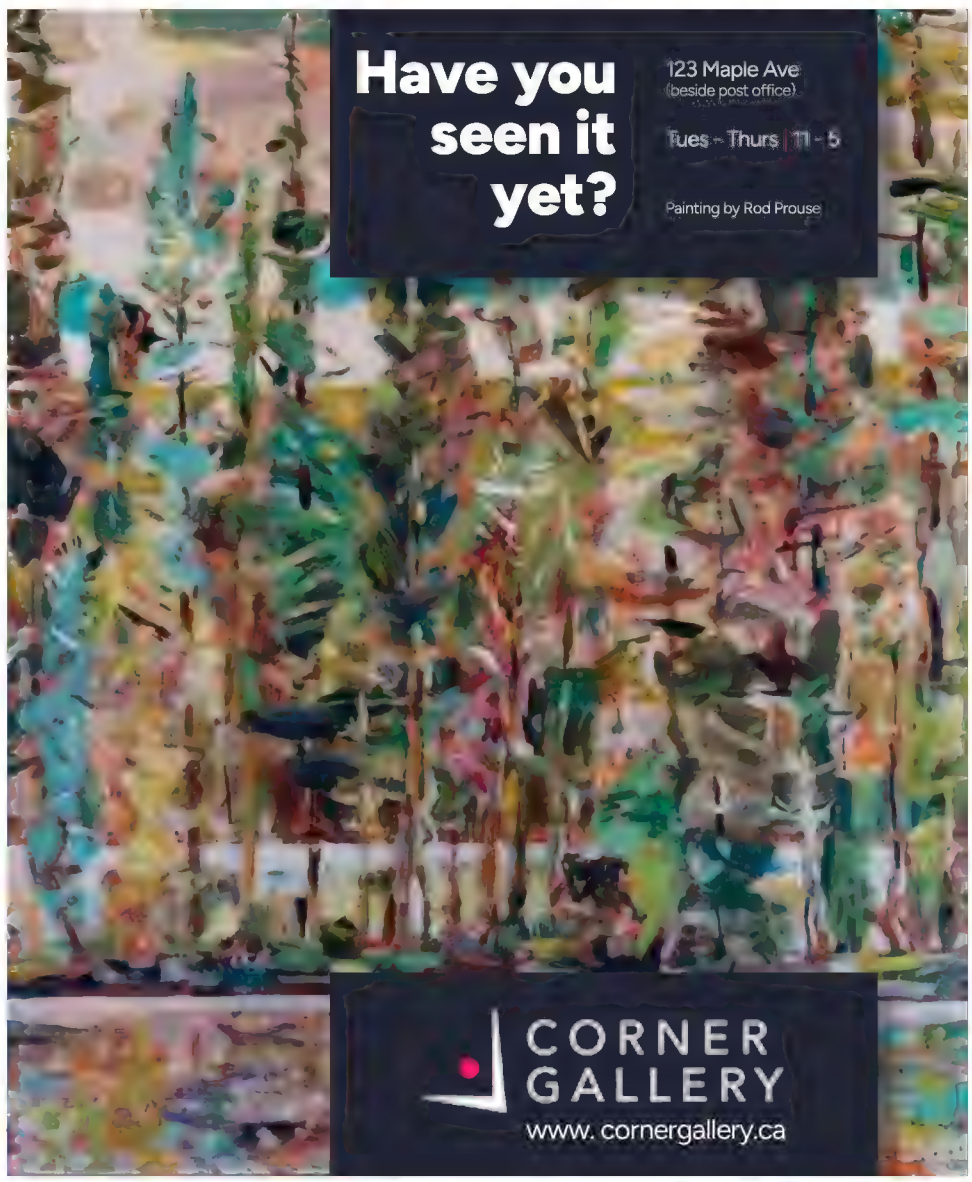

Highlander community

Former mayor honoured

Former Minden Hills mayor Brent Devolin received a posthumous King Charles III Coronation Medal April 5, during the federal election in Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes. Standing: Brent's mother, brother Barry, MP Jamie Schmale, son Kurran, wife Laurie, son Spencer and father Doug. Front: granddaughter Allana, daughter Lauren and grandson Dougie. *(Lisa Gervais)*

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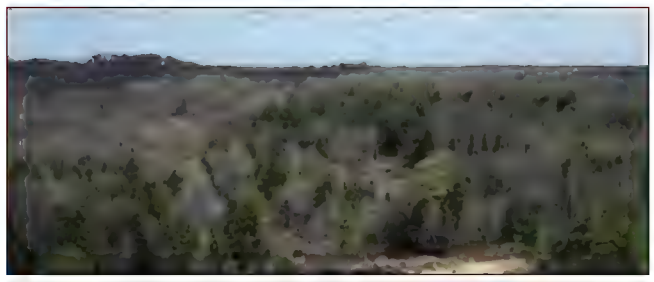

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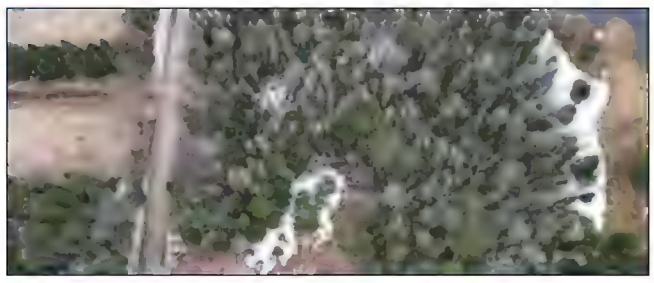

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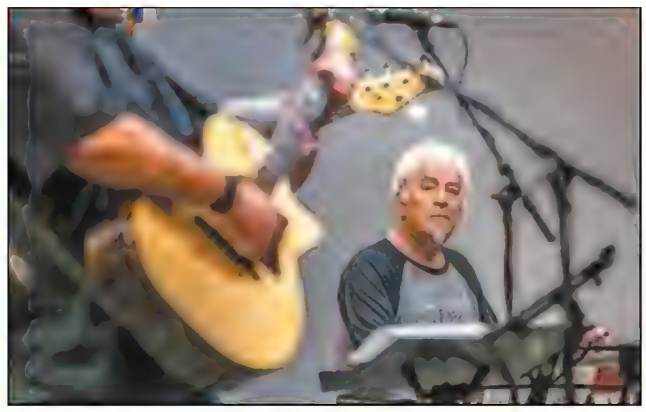
Highlander events

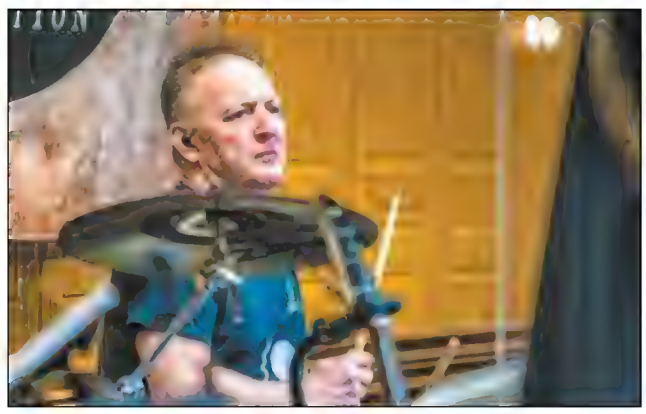
Thousands raised for Medeba

Camp Medeba held a not-so-silent auction at its property on Kennisis Lake Road April 26, welcoming approximately 100 attendees. Now into its 73rd year, Medeba welcomes over 5,000 youth annually for summer camps, outdoor education, and group retreats. It also runs a 10-month college-level leadership training program, Prosago, which has graduated students from over a dozen countries across the world. Executive director Steve Archibald said the event raised $35,000, which will be used to replace several waterfront docks and upgrade the camp's high ropes course.

Top Left: Katelyn Hartman models one of the items up for auction. Top Right: Try before you buy! Ann Fahrun checks out a unique rocking camp chair. Middle Right: Allison Tyne calls out winning door prizes. Bottom Left: Medeba staff members (L-R) Melanie Swartzentruber, Liam Little and Amanda Pyl greet and talk to guests at the refreshment table. Bottom Mid-Left: Steve Archibald heads up the festivities and reminds everyone why they're there – for the kids. Bottom Mid-Right: Leanne Young and her son check out some of the many items up for auction to raise money for the camp kids. Bottom Right: Beth Archibald puts in a strong bid on one of the items. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

Highlander events





Getting 'Wild' at Legion

It was party time at the Haliburton Legion April 26, with the facility hosting the Wild Honey Hoedown – a fundraiser supporting the Johnny Burke Foundation. The organization was launched by Burke's widow, Teresa Burke, following the Canadian Country Music Hall of Famer's death in 2017. She said it aims to prevent, disrupt, and end sexual exploitation and human trafficking. Attendees on Saturday were treated to performances from Kevin Young and Harold MacIntyre, big names on the Canadian country music scene. They were backed by a band consisting of Wayne Ferguson on fiddle, Dwayne Friesen on bass, Ken Post on drums, Doug Johnson sliding on the steel, and lead guitarist Steve Piticco. Proceeds were not known as of press time. *(Mike Baker).*

Left: Kevin Young hits the crowd with some smooth notes from his guitar. Top Centre: Canadian country legend Harold MacIntyre strums his way through some oldies. Top Right: Doug Johnson plays on the slide guitar, while Young performs. Bottom Centre: Dwayne Friesen glides effortlessly through another song. Bottom Right: Drummer Ken Post bangs out a tune for the gang. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

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What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Room. Youth darts league, for ages 10 to 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the clubroom. All are welcome.
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m in the clubroom. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m. between September and June.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, Remembrance Hall. Bingo 5 p.m. doors open, 7 p.m. start time, Remembrance Hall. Snack bar available – French fries and hot dogs available while supplies last.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month.
Fridays: meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. 50/50 draw at 5 p.m, tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Clubroom hours: Monday 3-9 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday closed.

Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for rental information call Cheryl Waller at 905- 447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com/facility-rentals Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129…everyone is welcome!

The Legion's mandate is to help veterans, assist with their mental and physical health and social wellbeing, provide a feeling of togetherness and combat isolation. All are welcome to attend our events.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Thursday** with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541

Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Mondays: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Tuesdays: closed
Wednesdays: open 2 to 6 p.m.
Thursdays: open 2 to 10 p.m.
Fridays: open 2 to 11 p.m.
Saturdays: open 2 to 9 p.m.
Sundays: closed, special events only

Darts at 7 p.m. May 5, 12, 19 and 26 Cost is $5 per player. Afternoon sessions are May 7, 14, 21 and 28 starting at 2 p.m. Cost is $4 per player.

We have suspended our cornhole league.

HHHS social recreation May 8 at 10 a.m.

Fish and chips May 2, 16 and 30 from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 for one piece, $20 for two pieces.

EVENTS

Drop into any branch of the Haliburton County Public Library during April to vote for your favourite 'Forest of Reading' book and receive a fun button. There is still time to read more books, voting closes April 30. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca for more information.

May 1 and 2, Watersheds Canada is hosting its national conference at Pinestone Resort. Featuring guest speakers like Mark Mattson, Barbara Elliot, Dr. Norman Yan, and Mark Cullen, the event brings together lake and watershed enthusiasts for an engaging experience that takes you beyond the conference room and into the field with hands-on stewardship project demonstrations and interactive seminars.

May 1, 1 to 4 p.m. The Gardens of Haliburton is hosting a spring open house, inviting people to tour the facility, meet staff, and learn about everything the Gardens offers. Drop in or call 705-457-4848 to schedule a tour. There will be live entertainment, tea and treats available.

May 2, 6 p.m. The Wilberforce Agricultural Fair committee is hosting a 'Let's Play Bingo' evening at Lloyd Watson Community Centre in Wilberforce. Cash prizes. Indulge in custom crafted beverages, sweet treats and popcorn at the snack bar. Must be 18 or older to play. Cash only. Games start at 7 p.m. Proceeds support the Youth Ambassador program.

May 3, 6:30 p.m. Movie night at Minden Bible Church, featuring a Sight and Sound production of Noah. Sponsored by ShareWord Global (Gideons). No admission – an offering will be received.

May 4, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. SIRCH Repair Café returns to the Bistro and Bakery at 49 Maple Ave. in Haliburton – bring your small appliances, ceramics, toys, furniture, jewellery, textiles, computers, wooden furniture and more. There will be a free bike clinic in the parking lot with Dave Paddock from Algonquin Outfitters. This is an opportunity for bicycle owners to address small repairs and learn basic maintenance and safety tips. SIRCH is looking for fixers and volunteers to assist with future events, call 705-457-1742 or visit sirch.on.ca.

May 4, 3 p.m. Highlands Festival Singers is hosting a 'Groovin' to the 60s' concert at Haliburton United Church. Tickets are $20, available at Master's Book Store and Minden Pharmasave. For family packages, email highlandsfestivalsingers@gmail.com. A second performance will take place May 6 at 7 p.m.

May 6, 7 p.m. Do you love gardening? Please join the Minden & District Horticultural Society at the Minden Community Centre for a session with guest speaker Jon Faulkner, who will be discussing 'garden start-up and season extension'. Monthly society meeting to follow.

May 7, 2 p.m. The Haliburton Sculpture Forest and Haliburton BIA are hosting the 7th annual Downtown Haliburton Sculpture Exhibition. Join us at Rails End Gallery for a walking tour of the downtown to see the public unveiling of this year's features, and meet the artists.

May 10, 10 a.m. the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust kicks off a new 'Discovery Days' season with a workshop on spring wildflowers and wild leeks at Barnum Creek Nature Reserve. Registration is required, admission by donation. Visit haliburtonlandtrust.ca or call 705-457-3700 to reserve a spot.

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What's on

How about a spot of green tee, ladies?

By Lisa Gervais

With the Haliburton Highlands Women's Golf League (HHWGL), and The Gals on the Green league, there's no reason for women not to get out on the links this summer and fall.

HHWGL president, Dale Rider, said, "we are thrilled that we have not only the HHWGL, but also The Gals on the Green league promoting the sport of golf to women of all ages and abilities in Haliburton."

The HHWGL returned to play in late April. An ice breaker tee and sign-up will be held at the Haliburton Curling Club May 2 at 7 p.m. Rider said it's an opportunity for people to learn about the group, which boasts between 130 and 150 members.

"We hope ladies will join us as we have league news, golf clinic sign-ups, and league clothing available. and it's a great night with great ladies," she added.

The local club was formed in 1995 by Kathy Purc and Kelly Moore as a nine-hole league, that encouraged women to come together for some relaxed, yet competitive, play. Riina Ennist started an 18-hole league in 2000.

The nine-hole group, 'the Chippers and Putters', play Tuesday afternoons, with tee times starting at 3 p.m. at five courses across the County.

The 18-hole group (handicapped and a little more serious) 'the Drivers', meet Wednesdays for a 2 p.m. start, alternating between Blairhampton Golf Club and Pinestone Golf Course.

They've added a Tuesday morning nine-hole league, the 'Eary Birdies', that will rotate between Gull River, Pinestone, Haliburton Highlands, and Carnarvon Family Golf courses.

Membership for players looking to compete in one league is $40 annually, or $50 to play in all. This does not cover the cost of golfing – though Rider says playing fees are reduced for league members.

Rider said 2025 marks the 31st year for the HHWGL.

She said all new members are assigned to one of four team captains, who each organize different themed events and fun activities – on top of regular golf play – through the season.

Play will conclude in late September. The group comes together for a season-ending banquet and awards night. For more information, visit hhwgl.ca.

Gals on the green

Haliburton Gals on the Green began in spring 2024 when Nicole Baumgartner and Kayla Gardiner wanted a league that was inclusive, suitable for all abilities and levels of experience. They also wanted a strong social element, and a way to make new connections.

The league's Facebook page boasts more than 220 followers and on average they get between 24-30 players each week.

They golf at the Pinestone Resort Golf Course and this year will be playing every Tuesday at 5.30 p.m. starting on May 20, with players arriving at 5.15 p.m. Golfers play in pairs, so single players are matched up with another single. Parties of four play best ball for nine holes, and there is a shotgun start. People can sign up or do drop-ins. All ages 16 and over are welcome. Every week there are different themes and prizes. They said their full calendar of events, updated pricing and membership packages will abe announced soon.

To sign up, visit Haliburton Gals on the Green on Facebook or instagram @ golfgalshali and click on their sign-up sheet or email nicole@baumgartnerrealty.ca or kayla@bonnieviewinn.com.

Left, Kim Henrick, 2024 'Drivers' champion and, right, Kathy Philips, 'Drivers' captain. *Submitted.*

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Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
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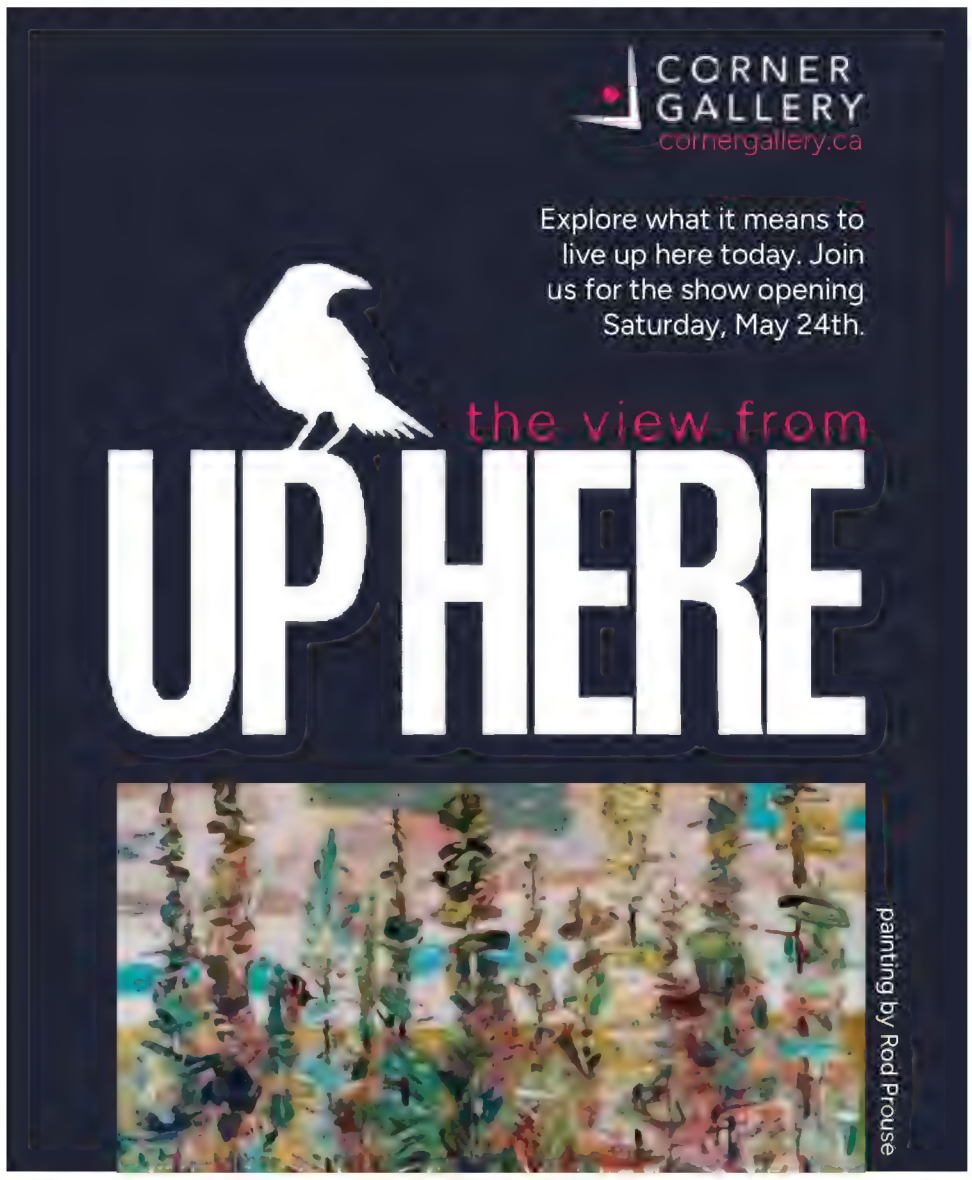
E-Mail: bmccaw@highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the CAO/Treasurer.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for candidate selection purposes only. Questions about this collection should be directed to Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer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EVENT

EVENT - Norwood Country Jamboree - July 17-20. Tickets available at Wilson Tire & Battery, Lindsay or 1-800-954-9998

MEETINGS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Wednesdays - 7:00 PM at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. in Minden - rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org All are welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every Thursday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Link Building. 5152 County Rd 21. For more information and an online version visit www.cloana.org or call 1-888-811-3887

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N	O	S	M	A	S	■	S	S	U	S	■	S	O	R	E
O	D	N	A	R	B	■	E	P	A	H	S	E	K	A	T
S	R	E	D	I	V	O	R	P	E	C	I	V	R	E	S
R	E	V	E	■	■	R	I	A	Y	N	A	■	■	■	■
E	V	A	■	R	E	Y	A	L	P	S	I	N	E	T	E
P	O	H	S	O	R	P	■	■	S	M	P	O	L	F	A
■	■	■	G	M	O	■	E	X	A	■	■	S	P	L	A
R	E	T	I	A	W	T	N	A	U	R	A	T	S	E	R
E	V	O	W	■	■	E	O	W	K	D	I	■	■	■	■
W	A	R	■	E	Y	E	E	X	T	■	O	M	E	A	I
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
O	T	E	I	L	I	S	M	Y	E	A	L	I	T	E	Z
R	E	E	T	U	N	O	M	E	R	Y	A	D	N	U	I
O	T	E	L	S	U	O	R	N	E	H	T	U	E	L	Z
N	A	E	S	H	A	P	O	L	■	T	S	A	P	O	N

THIS WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

S	O	S	■	S	D	E	■	T	O	O	F	T	E	S
T	O	L	E	M	A	C	■	A	T	T	O	C	I	R
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S	I	M	I	T	A	■	E	L	I	R	E	T	E	S
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4	8	2	3	9	5	1	7	6
7	3	9	6	8	1	4	5	2
6	7	8	1	3	9	2	4	5
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5	6	3	9	1	7	8	2	4
8	9	7	4	2	3	5	6	1

HELP WANTED

The Municipality of Dysart et al
is recruiting a
Municipal Treasurer

Due to an upcoming retirement, we are seeking applications from experienced and qualified candidates to fulfill the senior management position of Municipal Treasurer.

The complete detailed job description can be viewed through the Municipal website at: www.dysartetal.ca/careers

We offer a comprehensive benefit program and enrolment in the OMERS pension plan and a competitive salary grid from $122,866 to $143,760 per annum.

Please submit a resume and cover letter, preferably via email, no later than 4:00 pm on Friday May 2, 2025, to the attention of the Human Resources Manager – Municipality of Dysart et al – hr@dysartetal.ca

P.O. Box 389, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0

We thank all of those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Accommodation for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request. The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only for employment purposes.

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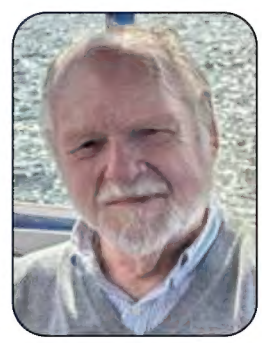

Joel passed away peacefully at home in Haliburton on Friday, April 18, 2025 and is reunited with his soulmate Catherine Jean Johnson (1997), at the age of 80.

Loving father to Sarah Levis of Haliburton and Rachel (Gavin) Foster of Belleville. Loving grandpa of Gillian, Charlotte and Levi. He is fondly remembered by his friends and family across Canada and the United States.

Joel served as the Haliburton County Librarian for many years.

A Celebration of Joel's Life will be held at a later date that will be announced. Cremation has taken place.

In Lieu of flowers, Memorial Donations to the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation (Joel supported in memory of his late wife) or to SIRCH (by cheque only) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

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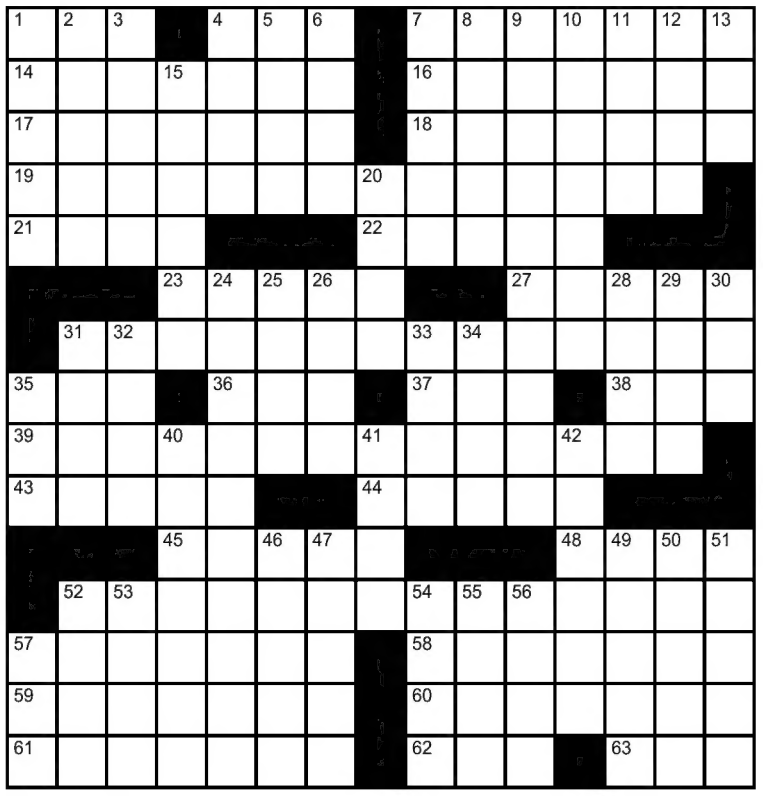
Smith, Sandra Anne (Slater)

Peacefully, at Extendicare Haliburton, on Wednesday, April 23, 2025. Sandra Smith age 85 was the beloved wife of the late William Smith (2017). Loving mother of Mark Smith (Michelle), Mike Smith (Sherry), Jeff Smith (Shelley), and Cindy Baumhour (James). Loved grandmother of Steven (Erin), Kristy (Patrick), Ryan, Josh (Samantha), Dylan, Olivia and Tyson. Survived by 7 great-grandchildren. Predeceased by her grandson Sean. Sister of Rick Slater (Deb), and Bill Slater (Wendy), and predeceased by her sister Marilyn. Survived by many nieces, nephews and friends. For over 35 years, Sandra and her husband Bill owned and operated Elephant Lake Lodge on Elephant Lake. She always made sure the cookie tins were full. Many thanks to the nurses and staff at Extendicare Haliburton for their love, care and support for mom. As per Sandra's wishes there will be no visitation or services. Cremation has taken place. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Alzheimer Society Hastings-Prince Edward would be appreciated by the family. Arrangements entrusted to M.G. Daly Funeral Home, Maynooth. (613) 338-3259 (Condolence messages may be e-mailed to dalyfuneralhome@bellnet.ca or visit www.mgdalyfuneralhome.com).

Highlander puzzles

All Shook Up

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords



Across

1 Some appliance brands
4 B-F link
7 Added some kick to
14 With head hung low, maybe
16 Like the Hatfields and McCoys
17 Safe for a germaphobe
18 Now and then
19 More pale-looking seafaring thieves?
21 Morales of "Ozark"
22 "You ___ Beautiful" (Cocker hit)
23 Thirst-inducing, maybe
27 Brass instruments rarely playing the melody
31 Ceramics makers stage an angry demonstration?
35 Ninth mo.
36 "___ funny!" (LOL!)
37 "The Raven" poet's inits.
38 Many a phone icon
39 Most cautious restaurant servers?
43 "Gone Girl" author Gillian ___
44 "Right??!!"
45 Have ___-up (skirmish)
48 Hertz alternative
52 Mass deliverers are doggedly determined?
57 Toboggan rider
58 Stir up
59 Cheese meaning "recooked" in Italian
60 King Arthur's castle
61 Cross the threshold, with "on"
62 Sullivan and Asner
63 Message in beach stones, maybe

Down

1 St. Lawrence peninsula
2 Spanish "these"
3 Tom Jones song, "___ Lady"
4 Caesar's 902
5 Scratch from a manuscript
6 Hesse, Germany's river
7 Get ___ deal (come out okay)
8 Canadian yard, roughly
9 Decisively kibosh
10 Scratch from a manuscript
11 The Bluenose coin
12 Feminine ones, in Québec
13 Family-friendly ratings
15 So-called "starving" worker
20 Doesn't default (on)
24 Looked after, as the details
25 Zodiacal Type A personalities
26 Not quite a canter
28 Polar beast on a toonie
29 Egyptian slitherers
30 Motor oil giant
31 Church bell toll
32 The Grand Ole ___
33 Whipped meringue feature
34 Drops from the sky
35 Abbr. in old personal ads
40 Serving to help
41 Endings with dim, half and nit
42 Tech stuff destined for the dump
46 Be of ___ (help out)
47 Guitar brand, with -ocaster
49 Blood testing vessels
50 "How much ___ much?"
51 Manuscript notes to not 5-Down
52 Ballerina bend
53 Square, only longer: Abbr.
54 Classic walk of a father-to-be
55 "Zounds!"
56 Glasses lens holders
57 Some get restaurant discounts: Abbr.

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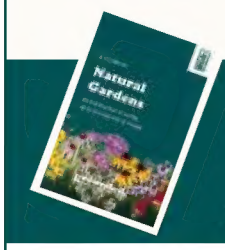

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